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“**The Water Fowl Family**”.<sup>1</sup>—The fourth volume in the *American Sportsman's Library* is an attractive book, which will doubtless prove of much value to those sportsmen who desire to extend their knowledge of the life habits of the game birds. It deals with the North American ducks, geese, swans, rails, and shore-birds. There are general descriptions of the families in each group, and accounts of each species, including their distribution, nesting and feeding habits. These have been compiled from standard authorities. There are also accounts from original observation of the behavior of each well-known species as it concerns the sportsman, and descriptions of the various methods employed in hunting it. An encouraging interest in bird protection is shown throughout the book; the “game hog” is condemned, and a close season in spring strongly advocated. It is a pity that a little of the cheap sporting-story element was included. The chapter on goose-shooting by the man who “hoped to preside at the obsequies of a goose” might well have been omitted. There are a number of excellent full page illustrations, three by Bull, and the rest by Fuytes.

R. H.

**Ancestral Canidæ**.<sup>2</sup>—Mr. J. B. Hatcher has published a paper of unusual interest on the Oligocene Canidæ lately discovered in Nebraska, and now preserved in the Carnegie Museum.<sup>3</sup> A full account is given of an almost complete skeleton of *Daphænus felinus*, Scott, and two new genera, *Proamphicyon* and *Protemnocyon*, are described. It is held that *Daphænus* has no known descendant; that *Proamphicyon* is ancestral to *Amphicyon*; and that *Protemnocyon* is ancestral to *Temnocyon*. This last animal is of particular interest, as it seems to be undoubtedly ancestral to *Canis*; that is, to the common dog. The discovery of *Protemnocyon* carries the known ancestry of the dog one stage further back; and, in fact, it was a very dog-like creature. The sagittal crest is quite as in the dogs; the two temporal crests of the foxes give their skulls a decidedly different appearance. The postorbital processes of the frontals are essentially as in the dogs, though short. The third

<sup>1</sup> Sanford, L. C., Bishop, L. B., and Van Dyke, T. S. *The Water Fowl Family*. New York, Macmillan, 1903. 8vo, ix+598 pp., 20 pls.

<sup>2</sup> See also an important article by Dr. W. D. Matthew (*Science*, June 5, 1903, p. 912) published since this notice was written.

<sup>3</sup> Oligocene Canidæ. *Mem. Carnegie Mus.* Vol. 1, pp. 65-108. Pls. XIV-XX.